

Featured:
Finding the Right
Path

TRiO's Uncertain
Future

Considering the
Cafeteria

Lies of Thanksgiving

Nov. 27,
2008
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Issue I

The Whalesong

university of alaska

TRiO's UNCERTAIN FUTURE

By Hollis Kitchin

JUNEAU— The University of Alaska Southeast is in a state of confusion. Students and staff alike are unsure if a program called TRiO will continue to be supported within the campus during the fall 2009 and spring 2010 semesters.

TRiO is a federally funded program that was created in 1964. Its goals are to motivate and support students who are from low-income families, first generation college students and students with disabilities. There are currently 11 different TRiO programs set up within the state of Alaska sharing a 3 million dollar grant to help students that qualify succeed in their college goals.

During a Student Government meeting held on October 2, Provost James Everett of UAS made an announcement that UAS would not be reapplying for the five-year grant which funds TRiO. At the time this decision was made, TRiO was not meeting the federal requirements set out for the program to successfully apply for the grant.

TRiO needs a minimum of 160 students and at least 67% of those students must qualify for dual eligibility; this means that they must meet two of the necessary requirements to be eligible for



TRiO EMPLOYEE SARAH CAMPEN TALKS WITH STUDENTS AMY DUFRESNE AND ESTHER RICO, ALONG WITH MARCO ULLOA FROM THE LEARNING CENTER DURING A TRiO BREAKFAST EVENT AT THE REC CENTER. PHOTO COURTESY TRiO

the program's benefits. During the fall 2007 semester, there were 104 students in the program and only 47% of them met dual eligibility.

As of the fall 2008 semester, there are 188 students enrolled and qualifying for TRiO and 78% of them meet dual eligibility requirements.

In an interview Everett stated that, "We had difficulty in meeting the federal requirements for participation in the grant, they had issued a finding in an audit of the program and based on those difficulties, and other program management issues, I felt the program was already at risk for continued participation."

The largest concern with the students on the UAS campus is whether or not the same opportunities will be provided with or without the aid of the Federal Government.

TRiO provides a large variety of resources for students that are eligible. Carol Cornolli, TRiO Director at the UAS campus, gives an example "If a student comes to us saying 'My grant didn't come I have to have this \$240 biology textbook or I won't graduate, I'll have to drop out, I'm falling behind', TRiO will buy it and check it out to that student for that semester, we won't give it to them because we can't by law, [but] we can develop a library."

Benefits such as the lending out of books, laptops and calculators help provide students with the tools they need to succeed in

Continued on Page 6

CONSIDERING THE CAFETERIA

By Mallory Millay

JUNEAU— Ever since NANA management took over last year, there has been some controversy concerning the cafeteria and food services.

Many students believe there has been an increase in prices and a lack of diversity in foods. There have also been questions raised about the meal plans that the freshmen living in Bantfield and students living in the apartments are required to have.

Some of the students with vegan or vegetarian preferences also believe

that there is a lack of diversity in the choices offered by the cafeteria.

Ryan Cortes a 19-year-old from Puerto Rico, a freshman majoring in elementary education at UAS, prefers to eat some of the vegetarian options.

Cortes feels that although they do offer a vegetarian selection at the cafeteria, it is pretty limited. "Every day it seems like they have something vegetarian, but they only have it as an entrée, so you only have one choice. If

you are vegetarian or vegan you only have one thing to choose from that is vegetarian friendly, while if you order from the grill you have a lot more choices. I think they could definitely improve but it's not the worst."

Students living in the apartments on campus tend to not go to the cafeteria at all, but make food in their apartments. According to Victoria Spencer a 23-year-old from Sacramento Cali., who is currently taking general studies and living in the apartments: "It's

just more convenient to go to the store and buy something to cook than to walk down to the cafeteria every time you want to get something to eat."

Ian MacDougall a 20-year-old junior mathematics major from Astoria, Ore. shared some of Spencer's views. "I think I've eaten at the cafeteria maybe 4 times. It is just much more convenient to cook at the apartments."

MacDougall also gave his opinion about the meal plan some students

Continued on Page 6

OPINION

LEGAL DRUG IS POISON OF CHOICE

By Laura Lemire

Recently I was informed that a movement in Vermont—the state I hail from—is in the midst of a heated debate over the legal drinking age.

Most Alaskans might not be aware of Vermont's reputation in the lower 48 as a "Hell-raising" state. Vermont was the first state to legalize same-sex marriage and is one of the most liberal states.

The bill was introduced by Richard Marron, a Vermont State Representative. If it passes, Vermont would stand out as the only state with a legal drinking age under 21. 17 law makers to date have signed on as co-sponsors.

Minor alcohol consumption is not uncommon, but it is more difficult for minors to consume because under aged drinkers can not purchase the alcohol themselves.

A mere four years ago, I would have cheered my home-state with praise and rallied in support of such

a bill; but this was back in the day, this was before I was legal.

When the big 2-1 hits, somehow we're all amazed that we made it there at all.

When an adolescent reaches the age of 21, the days of jumping fences and playing hide and seek with the cops are over. The standard ceremony involves a trip to the bar with 21-year-old peers to celebrate this coming-of-age.

Most bars down south give a free drink to the newbie when they read the birth date printed on the license. Another fresh 21-year-old has been inaugurated in the bar culture.

The fact of the matter is that alcohol is a dangerous drug and the younger an individual is, the less likely they are to drink responsibly. Drinking is harder to get away with when you are living at home but when an 18-year-old reaches college, the windows of opportunity are swung wide

open.

My first two years of college were spent in a drunken stupor. I attended a small private military college, enrolled in the civilian sector. Two years prior to my attendance, a student fell to his untimely death out of a fifth story window; alcohol played a factor.

Norwich University taught me how to drink. In this new environment, I found a social scene perpetuated by alcohol. You would be surprised how much drinking occurs on a "dry campus."

Unprepared for these new experiences, I was launched into a brave new world where sex and intoxication ruled supreme and where I continued to push my limits to the point of abuse. It can take years to break free from the brink of alcoholism.

Moving to Alaska, what I realized is that this is a problem everywhere, across the U.S.; the youth culture

is drinking its angst away. But how many people are aware of the detrimental effects of alcohol on a developing brain?

The fact is that legal drugs, alcohol included, kill 30 times more people than illegal drugs do. Perhaps the reason why people overlook this statistic is that alcohol related deaths occur most frequently in an older subset of the population, and the effects of alcohol abuse come much later than those of habitual legal drug abuse.

Alcohol education is a preventative step and should be emphasized more in health classes across the country. We need more than just a DARE program for the fifth graders. If Vermont intends to lower the drinking age, the state should first take the consequences into consideration and find a way to promote responsible alcohol use.

PRODUCTION NOTES

By Sarah Alli Brotherton

As the University of Alaska Southeast's student newspaper, it is our job as the staff of The Whalesong to represent the student body and provide the voice of the masses—which is not an easy task considering there are six of us and nearly a thousand of you. In reading this newspaper, you may come upon statements you disagree with and perhaps begin to think, "These people don't speak for me!" Luckily, there's a way to fix this.

In order to truly be the voice of UAS's student body, we need help from you—the student body! You don't have to spend arduous amounts of time to be helpful—if you see something you think could be improved, send us an e-mail or give us a call. We're always looking for talented and dedicated writers to join our staff: we still have several part-time paid reporter positions open. If you don't want to commit but still want to contrib-

ute, be a freelancer. It is seriously an awesome deal: you agree to cover an event; we get you free tickets and a gift certificate to a local business. All you have to do is write a story about it and take a few pictures.

You can also write a letter to the editor or opinion column. Share your views on a topic and get it published so the whole community can see it. Submit a short story, poem, photograph, cartoon, news brief, joke, or anything else you believe other students would enjoy seeing. This is your newspaper, and we want to be your voice—all you have to do is tell us what to say.

Send all material or job inquiries to Laura Lemire, riverdog18@aol.com. Be sure to include your full name and a short explanation of what the material is, if it isn't obvious. Direct questions or comments about production or layout to Sarah Alli Brotherton, sabrotherton@uas.alaska.edu.

University of Alaska Southeast Whalesong
November 27 2008, Vol 27 Issue I

VOICES FROM THE PAST

The following is a letter to the editor that originally ran in Issue 10 of the University of Alaska Southeast Whalesong, February 12, 1982.

Dear Editor,
I am opposed to the suggested \$10 per credit hour tuition increase, at the Juneau Campus, for the following reasons:

1.) Although its purpose is admirable, the amount it would raise for Juneau would be negligible and could result in reduced general fund appropriations in anticipation of tuition receipts.

2.) It opens the door for addition movement toward funding based on revenue rather than on need and education is one area where the concept is totally inappropriate.

3.) It will discourage part-time students because these people have not the scholarship fee waiver resources that full time students do. When costs of education increase student loans can increase,

but wages—the only resource of the part-time student—do not increase. A reduction in part-time student attendance would have little impact at a large campus, or one with a large full-time population such as Anchorage and Fairbanks. However, part-timers are Juneau's major student base.

We need to encourage these people to enroll as a first step towards building a full-time student body, not discourage them. Part-time students are the ones who enable classes to be offered which will attract full-time students. At least until UAS builds a decent base of full-time students, part-timers must be encouraged in every way possible. Increasing the cost of a 3-credit class to \$105.00 is a step in the wrong direction.

Kit Stewart

IN A NUTSHELL...

By Whalesong Staff

Recent Work Art Show

Over 150 Juneau citizens flocked to the Lake Room on the upper level of Mourant on Friday.

November 7 for the University of Alaska Southeast Art Department's show entitled "Recent Work."

Eighteen works of art, each done by various ceramics and sculpture students were displayed Monday through Sunday. The works of clay thrown on the wheel and hand built, high and low fire, were shaped into a variety of pieces.

Matt Davidson's piece, "Three Lidded Jars" featured 3 nearly identical wheel thrown jars with a bit of a twist and almost disfigurement to them, giving them a great amount of depth and shadow.

One piece that drew much attention was a hand built piece by Doris Alcon entitled "Aviateur Fréquent No. 2" which translates to "Frequent Flier No 2." This intriguing work included a rabbit swinging on a trapeze and pieces of a broken rabbit on the floor;

the initial reaction by most was fear that something had broken but people were reassured by the artist that it was intentional.

More artwork included a sake set by Chelsie Harris entitled, "Sake it to Me," a large shouting head by Matt Voelckers entitled, "Go Title Yourself," and many other well constructed and creative pieces created by students.

Dean to be replaced

Patrick Brown, the Dean of the Arts and Sciences Department, is being replaced as of Monday, October 27. Brown has been the Dean of Arts and Sciences at UAS for approximately 1 year.

The question everyone is asking is, why is the dean being replaced?

According to UAS Provost James Everett, some changes needed to be made to uphold the University's two main goals: teaching and learning and student success.

Everett also explained that very few sizeable changes are due to occur following the repercussion because of the change of deans.



JUNEAITES PACKED CENTENNIAL HALL FOR THE 52ND ANNUAL SKI SWAP, WHERE THEY COULD PURCHASE NEW AND USED SKI AND SNOWBOARD GEAR. PHOTO BY HOLLIS KITCHIN.

Everett was unable to comment on the precise reason for the release of Brown from his position.

In a later interview, Patrick Brown explained that he was an "at will employee" and these employees can be fired without any reason by the establishment employing them. Brown also stated that he is limited to what he can say due to the laws and regulations that protect the University. "Currently Brown is still drawing benefits and being paid while he is on leave," Everett said in an over the phone interview. Brown has been placed on administrative leave pending reassignment.

However, in 6 months on April 27, this plan will terminate due to the policy of the board. It is policy to give these 6 months of paid time to a terminated employee.

Brown said that he is just trying to figure out what he will do next. His plan is to look for new employment somewhere in the lower 48.

At the moment, there is no one lined up to replace the previous dean. Everett will be taking over the position for a short time until an adequate replacement for the job is found. During this time paper work will be completed and teachers will be consulted about how they feel concerning the change in the administration

52nd Annual Ski Swap

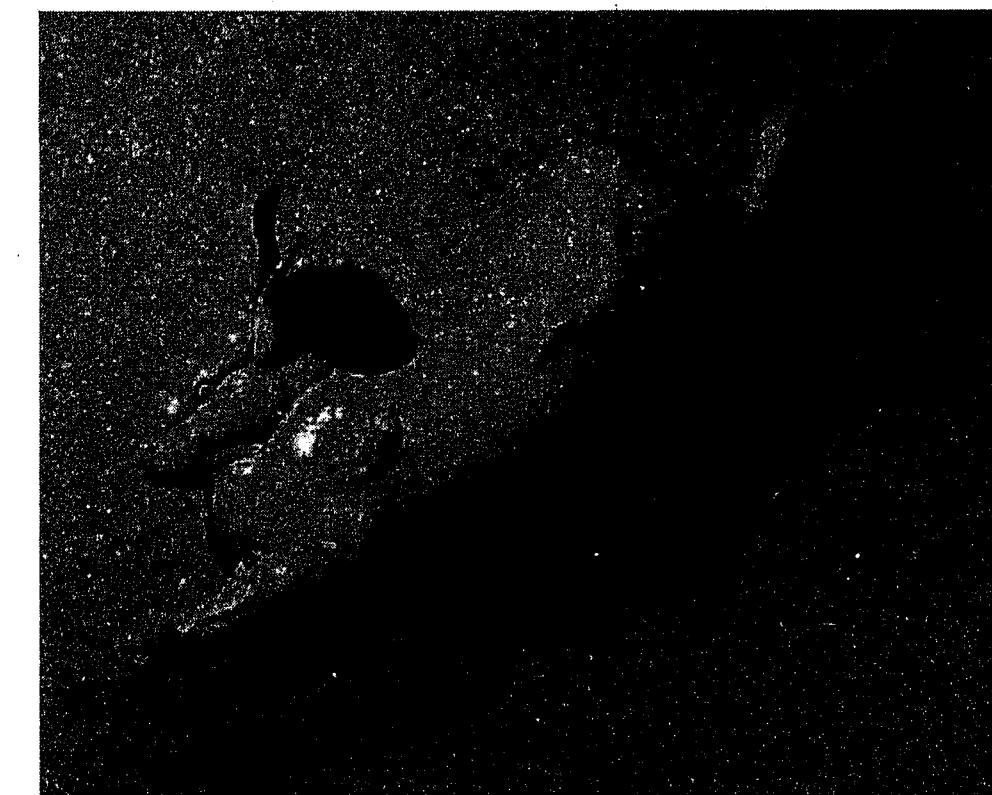
At 10 a.m. on Saturday November 15, the doors to Centennial Hall opened for the Juneau Ski Club/National Ski Patrol 52nd Annual Ski Swap.

Hundreds of Juneau citizens waited in a line that wrapped around the backside of the building and down Willoughby Ave. for over an hour with the hopes of getting in early to find the best gear before it would be gone.

"I got there at about 9:00 a.m., had to stand outside, which wasn't too bad it wasn't terribly cold out," Aria Chipley, a University of Alaska Southeast student remarked. Chipley made away with a brand new ski coat for a lot less than she would have got it new from the store.

Within 30 minutes of the Ski Swap's start, over half of the gear was gone from its original placement, and the check-out line had already stretched across the basketball court sized room.

Those in line either had one or two pieces of equipment or had a new snowboard, bindings, boots, helmet, coat and pants—everything needed for the upcoming season.



DORIS ALCON'S AVIATEUR FREQUENT NO. 2, AN EYECATCHING PIECE THAT INCLUDED A BROKEN CLAY RABBIT ON THE FLOOR. PHOTO BY HOLLIS KITCHIN.

University of Alaska Southeast Whalesong
November 27 2008, Vol 27 Issue I

FINDING THE RIGHT PATH

By Craig Bergquist

People are brainwashed from elementary school straight through high school to believe that there is a right way to live your life: finish high school, do well in college, work for 30 years and maybe meet someone along the way.

Gregor Johnston, a love child originally from Texas and Missouri and a student at UAS has followed a very different path.

"I just never really fit in anywhere down south, I had friends in St. Louis, Kansas City, Dallas, San Antonio, but I never really wanted to stay," Johnston said.

Leaving Texas, Johnston moved to Anchorage in 1980 and continued his career as a police dispatcher. Living in Anchorage, Johnston quickly realized that the area was nothing special to him, and moved out to the bush to explore, where he fell in love with the local culture.

After meeting a woman and getting married, Johnston moved to Haines and had three children. "Haines was easily my favorite place to live. Compared to Juneau it has twice the snow, half the rain, and double the sunshine," Johnston said.

Eventually his wife turned to drugs and alcohol, and they separated. After a difficult divorce, Johnston

got custody of the children. second wife was diagnosed with cancer, and passed five years later.

"It's just kind of funny being a 54-year-old newly-wed and in college..."

don't let it take over your life."

After being a single parent for 7 years, Johnston eventually married a woman with two boys of her own. "One of the interesting parts of it was when we went out to the diamond mall or to the movies; we used to get a lot of looks. Three short little Eskimo kids, two good sized boys that are half black, and my wife and I. We were an

"I was alone in a house that usually had 7 people in it. It got so bad that I could hear my own heart beat." After grieving, Johnston eventually sold his house. Later he met another woman named Lynn. After moving down to Arizona with her for a year, they got married in December and decided to move back up to Juneau, which is where they live now.

"They say that Alaska must be treating me well—finally, and I have to agree."

interesting crew. We called ourselves the Rainbow Brady Bunch."

Johnston settled down and was the "Papa Bear" of the rainbow Brady Bunch. The kids grew up one by one and went off to college or after girls, and they all moved out. Johnston's

Although Johnston took a different path than most to get there, he is in school again, working on his elementary education degree. "It was my kids were who really pushed me to be an education teacher. They remembered the homework sessions at the table while I

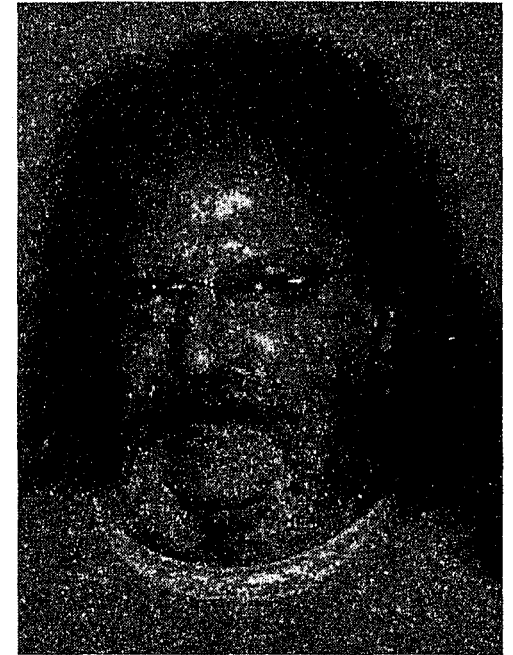


PHOTO BY CRAIG BERGQUIST

cooked for them and when I asked them what I should go to college for, they said be a teacher."

Although the road has been difficult, Johnston has finally found happiness in Juneau.

"It's just kind of funny being a 54-year-old newly-wed and in college, but it has turned out really well. Whenever I talk to old friends on the phone they always say I seem happy with my wife and new life, they can hear it in my voice. They say that Alaska must be treating me well finally, and I have to agree."

The Johnston's celebrate their one year anniversary this December.

Considering the Cafeteria (Continued)

are required to have. "I don't see the point in having a meal plan with \$250. It seems like a waste. I can understand having it for freshmen since they don't have the kitchens we do. They would eat a lot of Ramen otherwise."

Ashlyn Voorhees is an 18-year-old freshman from Eagle Point Ore. seeking an associate's degree in nursing. She believes that the cafeteria is very well-located. "I eat there about 3 times a day. I get a salad and then between my classes I get chips and stuff later on. It is pretty convenient since all my classes are in the Egan building, I just walk over."

First year students Taylor Murph and Aria Chipley, who live in Banfield, expressed their opinions about the meal plan and the food from the cafeteria.

"I don't think freshmen understand the college experience, so it's probably a lot easier for them to get the meal plan," When asked about the meal plan required for Banfield residents, Murph a 19-year-old from Ketchikan majoring in marine biology said, "Then they can have an option for meals and not worry about running out of money."

Chipley, from Gustavus, Alaska and is taking general studies, thought the food served at the cafeteria was satisfactory. "For a small campus, it is pretty varied. I think they put in a good effort to give us some healthy options."

Both Chipley and Murph said they thought items from the grill were pretty pricey. According to John Ames, the General Manager of Dining Services on campus, the grill is one of the more expensive food choices offered in the

cafeteria.

Ames pointed out that although nearly all prices on the menu have been increased, the grill and beverage prices are the ones that people are noticing. "There has been a change for approximately 10% of existing menu items. Since the energy crisis in Juneau this past spring, and until recently with the skyrocketing costs of fuel, the overall prices from our distributors have increased over 50% in some cases." NANA has been forced to increase prices due to these energy costs.

Ames also explained some of the changes that have taken affect since NANA took over last year.

"Grab n Go items have appeared in the Mourant Café, Spikes Café and the Bear's Pantry. Daily vegetarian options are offered at the Mourant Café

for lunch and dinner as well as a four-fold increase in Bear's Pantry items." And that is just listing a few.

Student Government and the administration have recently agreed to implement a program that will place 100% biodegradable containers in the cafeteria. Items replaced would include hot and cold cups, 6 inch plates, soup bowls, to-go containers and flatware.

There will be additional charges for these items due to the higher cost of them. These charges are being passed on to everyone at the same cost as they are purchased.

If students are interested in attending one of these Student Government and Administration meetings and hearing what is going to be planned for the dinning services, there are meetings the last Friday of every month.

TRiO's Uncertain Future (Continued)

their classes. TRiO has the ability to hire tutors for specified student needs. Unlike the Learning Center on campus, which only has tutors in the subjects of Math and English, TRiO can hire tutors in Biology, Spanish and History, and these tutors can sit and work with the student for as long as it takes for them to understand the material.

TRiO also provides workshops to help students improve their writing skills and understand MLA formatting.

"TRiO has helped me with my education by sticking by my side and making sure that I am keeping up with my classes, and am not falling behind," explained Lorena Phillips, a 19-year-old general education major from Noatak. According to Comolli the TRiO program does not hold students hands and makes sure they are working hard; TRiO informs students, who may not otherwise be aware of how they are doing in their classes, of their grades so they can seek the help they need to improve them.

"They have been a huge help! I was able to get all my financial aid, housing and various other UAS related issues taken care of before the semester started with the help and assistance of TRiO!" 24-year-old psychology major, Larina Santos from Juneau exclaimed.

Because of the small number of students TRiO helps, they are able to provide help in filling out paperwork and finding answers to scholarship questions in a much more one-on-one manner than that of other offices on campus.

During the Student Government

meeting, many students raised concern that if the TRiO program is brought in-house, the same friendly and helpful atmosphere might be lost and that would be a big loss. "TRiO has lent me calculators, given me money towards my education and a campus family when I knew no one," Kiara Alexander, a 31-year-old human services graduate from Washington said.

Carol Camolli explains that the TRiO program puts on events for the students, giving it a close knit feel and allowing for a close bond between students. She does not claim that this is something only TRiO has, the same thing occurs with sports teams and other various groups where people spend large amounts of time working together and providing support for one another.

"We are trying to ensure the success of all of students through a variety of programs in Academic Affairs and through Student Services. In my experience over the last 20 years, we have a unique and remarkable group of faculty and staff here involved in student success initiatives who commit every day they come to work to helping students succeed in their programs at UAS," Provost Everett replied in answer to a question regarding enrollment and student retention.

He went on to explain, "We are examining the way forward with the TRiO program, including alternatives that might be possible given improved experience with our management of the federal grant and their requirements for participation. The program Director

is working closely with other UAS staff and this office to ensure the best outcomes for all TRiO participants."

At this point in time it is unclear what will happen to TRiO, applications for the grant renewal are due in spring of 2009. TRiO is now meeting the federal

requirements, and students within the program are successful in their studies. With these new improvements of the TRiO program and the decisions made in the 2008 spring semester only time will reveal the future of TRiO on the UAS campus.

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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| December 2008 | Tidal Breeze Subscription Due World AIDS Day HIV Testing 12-4 @ SAS Student Health Center & The Lodge PSD STRESS WEEK | Chair Massage Maurant Cafe Firewood 12-2pm Cultural Infusion Actions Meeting: Ep. 224 @ 11:45am Massive Pick-up Dodgeball REC 4-5pm Open Gym Basketball REC 7-10pm | Chair Massage Maurant Cafe Firewood 12-2pm Family Time @ RVC 5-8pm Open Gym Soccer REC 7-10pm Ultimate Frisbee 9-11pm Field House Indoor Turf Last Call Breakfast @ The Housing Lodge 10pm-Midnight | Chair Massage Maurant Cafe Firewood 12-2pm Financial Aid Workshop Housing Lodge 4-6pm Parks & Rec Ordway Basketball @ REC 6-10pm Cafe REC @ 7-10pm | Chair Massage Maurant Cafe Firewood 12-2pm "Chocolate Spa" @ The Housing Lodge 7-9pm Entry chocolate dipped delights... | Singers' Road Magic for 400- Lodge Run 10am (RSVP Maurant) Intramural Basketball REC 3-6pm Intramural Volleyball REC 5-8pm Photos of the Southern Haley Showtimes: 1:00, 4:00 & 7:00pm @ the REC - Snacks |
| | 7 Wood Work Daybook Week Finals Week | 8 Open Gym Basketball REC 7-10pm | 9 Family Time @ RVC 5-8pm Open Gym Soccer REC 7-10pm End of Semester Party: Maurant Cafe 3-5pm (All Student, Faculty & Staff Invited) Drawing for Student Government Raffle @ 4:30pm | 10 Parks & Rec Ordway Basketball @ REC 7-10pm Cafe REC @ 7-10pm | 11 | 12 |
| 14 Housing Move-out by 5:00pm | 15 Was Closed Dec. 24 - Jan 4 Was Dining Services Maurant Cafe Dec 15-19, 7:30 - 2:00 Spikes Dec 15-19, 7:30 - 12:00 Closed Dec 22- Jan 4 REC Closed Dec 15 - Jan 5 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |

University of Alaska Southeast Whalesong
November 27 2008, Vol 27 Issue I

THANKSGIVING: THE BURIED HOLIDAY

By Craig Bergquist

November 27 is a day filled with turkey, black buckled hats, and good company. Thanksgiving has become one of North America's hallmark holidays.

It is an opportunity to spend time with the family and an excuse to make a nice meal. It is an occasion where everyone can enjoy a tradition of food and be content with the country for at least one day in the year. The culture of cornucopias and happy natives eating pilgrims food is one that is ingrained in the holiday as deeply as Santa is to Christmas, but is may surprise you to know that this is a recent addition.

Thanksgiving as we know it did not exist for the pilgrims. In fact, the pilgrims were starving, and the winter was hitting them hard. It was the natives that had all of the food, and it was the natives that taught them how to grow in the temperamental New England soil and how to prepare the local foods.

The picture that is painted by all of our traditional Thanksgiving advertisements and culture could not be more wrong. The Native Americans had held annual harvest celebrations for generations, long before the pilgrims arrived on their shores.

The Americans would steal the idea from the Natives and call it Thanksgiving. It was not an idea that the settlers came up; it was a day when the Natives feeding the starving colonists.

The fact that Thanksgiving was made a national holiday for

ter was setting in. The Union troops needed something to lift their spirits. Abraham Lincoln had just the thing; a new national holiday. It promoted nationalism and a renewed sense of spirit among the troops.

As pointed out by James Lowen in

The Thanksgiving tradition and the "holiday season" is something that has largely been accelerated by the media. With the ease of advertising and the idea of an entire season devoted to shopping, it is not hard to see why retailers would want to support Thanksgiving. Not only do they enjoy the jump in the sale of turkeys, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pies, but also greeting cards, dried corn, even plane tickets.

We are brainwashed straight up through elementary school with hand turkeys and Pop-sicle stick pilgrims. It is a tradition that the media is more than happy to promote, because they make a killing, and we smile all the way.

The idea that the tradition of Thanksgiving has been passed down hundreds of years is ridiculous. The holiday we celebrate today is rooted in hundreds of years of fabrication along with half a century of advertising campaigns, and it is important to embrace that. Thanksgiving as a national holiday is a great chance to spend time with your family, reconnect with people, be proud to be an American and eat good food. I think that is enough of a holiday in itself.



war-time morale is very often overlooked... The fourth Thursday of November was nothing special until 1863.

In 1863, the Civil war had been raging on for two years, and the bitter cold of win-

his book, Lies my Teacher Told Me: "The Pilgrims had nothing to do with it; not until the 1890s did they even get included in the tradition. For that matter, no one used the term Pilgrims until the 1870s."

University of Alaska Southeast Whalesong
November 27 2008, Vol 27 Issue I

SEX WEEK MAKES SEX EDUCATION FUN

By Hollis Kitchin

JUNEAU— The first reaction of many students when hearing about "Sex Week," an event held at the Juneau REC from November 2-5, was split between confusion or excitement. Many students didn't know what it was until they got there.

The signs were up in the cafeteria, the housing lodge and around campus advertising games: "Sex Scrabble," "Sex Jeopardy," "Condom Bingo" and "Sex in the Shower." This posters informed students of the time and location of all events, 7-9 p.m., Sunday to Wednesday, at the REC.

"Sex Week" is put on by the Peer Advocates (PA) of student housing at the University of Alaska Southeast, sponsored in part by a grant from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.

"Really we're just doing sex education and promotion of safe sex," Peer Advocate Allison Boyd stated. All the games centered on facts about sexually transferred infections (STIs) and common misunderstandings about sex.

Each game night was set up with

information about STIs, different types of precautions to take before being intimate with someone as well as basic biological facts about sex. Of course, the team that won each night had their pick of prizes. Cutting boards, pasta and sauce sets, towels, pots and pans, and mugs with hot chocolate filled the prize table the first night of game play.

The first game of the week was "Sex Scrabble," and students entering the entertainment room of the REC found a giant scrabble board 16ft x 16ft, a pile of scrabble tiles each one square foot and four "tile keepers." Couches and chairs all facing away from each other were set up around the board. The usual "double letter" and "triple word score" squares littered the board but among them were bright pink squares marked "Sex question 5 extra points!!!"

"It was incredibly fun" Taylor Murph exclaimed, a freshman from Ketchikan, Alaska majoring in Marine Biology.

Bonus points were given for playing sex related words and answering

questions relating to sex correctly.

During "Sex Jeopardy," familiar faces from the previous Scrabble night reappeared for another shot at winning prizes for dorms and apartments alike.

The categories filled the projection screen that Monday night, "History," "Non-Hetero," "STIs," "Men's," "Women's" and "Culture." Questions came and points were gained and lost at a fast rate, a few technical errors occurred; mostly repeat questions popping up and trouble determining which group raised their flag first. Despite the technicalities, all in all, the teams had an enjoyable time.

The night of "Condom Bingo" was just like any other bingo night; however instead of tiles being read out as B-52, they were read as B-condom, G-lingerie, and other sex related clip-art instead of numbers.

Rounds of bingo went until all the prizes from the week were gone, allowing for an hour and a half of solid bingo playing.

"We're not trying to force feed them information, we're just really

concerned about the well being of UAS and that, you know, being young adults we also want them to start taking responsibility for things they do and [start] realizing that 'hey things can happen to me.' It's such a small community that we need to be able to take responsibility for our actions," CJ Reeves II, another Peer Advocate explained.

"Sex in the Shower" was the final event of the week, an informal question and answer session between guys and girls about sex and relationships. There was a curtain put up and guys could sit on one side, girls could sit on the other if they wanted to keep their responses anonymous.

The fun filled atmosphere, unlike that of most high school health classes, gave an entertaining and unexpected way to learn about STIs, and aspects of sex that will surely be memorable.

The PAs of UAS housing would like to remind students living in the freshman dorms, and the apartments that there are free condoms located in the Peer Support Office located in the Lodge

STUDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BRINGS BATMAN TO UAS

By Hollis Kitchin

JUNEAU— Students at packed into the REC on November 15 to enjoy a well-prepared dinner and feast to the sounds of Batman on the big-screen. The turnout to the Student Alumni Association's "Dinner and a Movie" show-



STUDENTS STAND IN LINE FOR FOOD AT SAA'S RECENT "DINNER AND A MOVIE" AT THE REC. PHOTO BY HOLLIS KITCHIN

ing of the Dark Knight was impressive.

This month SAA showed the new Batman movie, accompanied by a buffet of Italian food, including lasagna, garlic bread, Cesar salad, and chicken penne alfredo. At this "Dinner and a Movie," over 100 students attended along with 20 people not part of the Student Alumni Association.

A small \$15 fee charged to every student taking 6 credits or more a semester at the University of Alaska Southeast here in Juneau, allows entry to the monthly SAA "Dinner and a Movie" event, student also receive one free t-shirt and water bottle each, can attend the annual etiquette dinner for free and get discounts for a variety of off campus programs.

"It's a branch of the regular Alumni Association; normally an alumni association is for people who have graduated from a university, ours is a alumni and friends association actually, so we have people who have graduated and people who are just supporters of the university. In 2003, our director Lynn Johnson came up with this idea that she found

out at a conference down south call the 'Student Alumni Association,' and the point is to train people while they're still in college to be part of a group," Keni Campbell, Alumni Relations Manager said.

At least once a month since August, the SAA has provided a dinner and movie catered by Abbie's Catering, for more variety and because most of the SAA events are held at the REC center the association is not required to use NANA as their caterers.

"It gives me something to do in my spare time, a place to hang out with friends, maybe play pool while watching a movie, basically get out of the dorms," Scott Begins, a Marine Biology major from Soldotna, Alaska expressed.

"I was amazed at how many people showed up, it was about three times as many as usual," Randi Spray, a student employee with SAA stated. There are 783 members of the Student Alumni Association.

Of the initial students charged, only 130 opted out of the payment that would have had to pay to get into the

SAA event. Students who live off campus are usually the ones that opt out, along with students who are taking on-line courses.

"I haven't been to any of the SAA events because I don't live on campus. I almost went to the one last Friday but something else came up. I'm sure if I lived in the dorms and didn't have things I had to do off campus, I'd go to them all the time," Boni Parker, a ceramics TA from Juneau.

SAA has made donated money to university projects and for the past two years, they have made a donation to TRiO in order to provide bus passes to students within the program.

"We're always looking for fun ideas of things people feel are missing or things that are interesting to this year's group of people as opposed to last year's group of people because there are always different people around. People are always welcome to our meetings, the first Friday of every month at 1:30 p.m. in the Novatney Conference room," Campbell urged.

University of Alaska Southeast Whalesong
November 27 2008, Vol 27 Issue 1

PARNELL DISCUSSES ALASKA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

By Tom Hewitt, UAF Sun Star

FAIRBANKS — Last Monday, Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell spoke at UAF in an address on Alaska's long-term economic future.

He sought to reassure the audience that Alaska's long-term economic future is rosy, but the data he presented sometimes contradicted his overall theme.

Parnell spoke about a variety of different economic and political events, but returned many times to his thesis that Alaska is a place where the American Dream still lives. "I still have that belief that this is the greatest place in America—probably in the world—to raise a family, to get a job, to get an education," Parnell stated early in his address.

Although Parnell stuck by his hopeful outlook, bad economic news consumed much of the address. Parnell conceded that the economic crisis that began in the real estate sector and has spread to the financial markets will have negative effects on Alaskans. "It looks like we're heading into a recession," said Parnell, acknowledging the likelihood that America's economy will not rebound quickly from its financial woes.

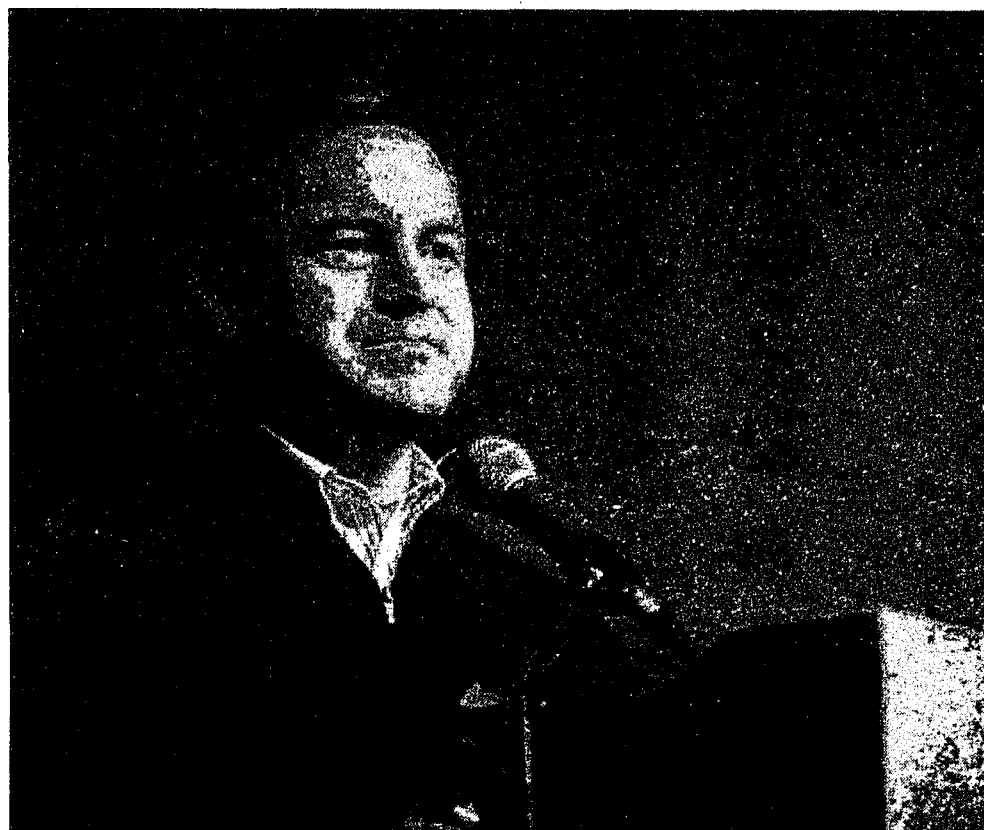
Parnell also recognized that the swiftly falling price of oil, while beneficial to consumers at the gas pump, may damage Alaska's economy. "Oil prices came down from a high of about \$147 in July to \$59 today," said Parnell. "That's going to have some implications across the board." The impact of low oil prices became crystal clear a few minutes later, as a subsequent por-

tion of the address stated that Alaska's 2009 budget will require an oil price of around \$62 per barrel to avoid a revenue shortfall.

Oil's value is likely to rebound when America's economic prospects improve, but the future of Alaska's oil revenue isn't exactly cheery. The lieutenant governor's presentation showed that Alaskan oil output is in decline, and not likely to rebound. "Oil production continues to decline," Parnell stated. "It's a mature field." Consequences of declining oil revenue could profoundly affect the state's income; according to Parnell's figures, oil money makes up over three-quarters of the total value of Alaska's extracted resources. "Effectively, the state of Alaska is potentially heading into lean times here, in terms of revenue," said Parnell, "because the production of oil is coming down and the price is coming down."

Still, not all of Parnell's numbers contradicted his optimism about the state's economic future. The high price of oil over the past year allowed the state to put money into reserve funds and insulate against coming hard times. "We have about \$10 billion stashed in savings, not counting Permanent Fund," Parnell said. He stated that the funds should cover the state's financial needs for ten years, but ceded that his figures assumed that the gas line will be built in ten years.

Parnell's hopes for economic growth appear to be partially pinned to the university. "UAF is clearly an integral part of these



LT. GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL SPOKE AT UAF WITH THE MESSAGE THAT UA STUDENTS ARE VITAL TO ALASKA'S ECONOMIC MESSAGE. PHOTO BY NINA SCHWINGHAMMER.

challenges that we're working to meet as a state," the lieutenant governor said to the students in the audience. "And you're right in the center of it." Later, Parnell stated that one of the reasons he thinks UAF students will play a major role in providing for Alaska's economic future is that "[Students'] idealism hasn't been jaded as much, perhaps, as a forty-something or a fifty-something... if you're a student, then obviously you're here because you have some ideals left."

In questions after the address, Parnell provided the clearest insight

into the real determining factor for Alaska's long-term economic future. In response to a question by business student Paul McDonald about transitioning to a more sustainable economy, Parnell said, "As long as our state budget is dependent upon a resource that is volatile in terms of pricing, then we're going to experience the boom and bust."

The lieutenant governor's admission that Alaska's economic welfare is handcuffed to oil was a little off-message, perhaps, but he spoke no truer words all evening.

STUDENTS ORGANIZE TO STOMP THE VOTE

By Maureen McCombs, UAF Sun Star

FAIRBANKS— On Sunday, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., students congregated in the Wood Center multi-level lounge to organize for "Stomp the Vote." Their mission: to stomp the word 'Vote' into the hill below West Ridge. Stomp the Vote was organized as a bipartisan event to encourage the student population to vote this Tuesday.

The group consisted of 12 vol-

unteers from ASUAF, Young Republicans, and UAF Students for Obama. They were armed with squirt bottles filled with cherry Kool-Aid because "It's colorful, plus it's tasty," explained Todd Vorisek. This is the first year that anything like this has been attempted. The group got together last weekend as well for a couple practice rounds with a sign outside

the SRC and on various sidewalks around Fairbanks. There were high expectations as everyone dispersed to make their way up to the hill. "It's gonna be huge," anticipated David Spencer, who had originally thought of the idea to paint the snow. "I had been trying to think of ways to get advertising space," he said. Then one day when he was driving past the ice park, the

idea came to him, and Stomp the Vote was born.

Once everyone was together on the hill, they began to outline the word "Vote" by stomping it out in the snow. By 4:00 p.m., their numbers had dwindled from 12 down to five, and despite frozen nozzles and cheeks and hands bright red from both cold and dye, the word "Vote" was legible in the snow.

The Whalesong

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BLUE CITY, RED STATE?

By Craig Bergquist

JUNEAU— Here at UAS, we have an unusually diverse voting pool on campus.

Out of the fifteen students interviewed, 4 students will be voting for McCain, 6 of them will be voting for Obama, and a surprising 5 individuals will be voting for independent party candidates or are still undecided. Although there were the obvious base differences in policies, almost everyone agreed on several of the major questions.

One of these big questions was "What do you think about media sensationalism and focusing on the dirt on the candidates rather than on the politics?" There was a nearly unanimous disgust with the dirty politics and the coverage that the media gives it.

Carleton Shorey, a Juneau resident and UAS freshman has had enough with the media. "That is why I do not watch the news. Watching the news to me is like watching a movie. It entertains me, but it does not tell me what I want to know. If you actually want news, what you should do is not watch the mainstream news. Go out there and get your own information."

One Banfield hall resident, Chloe Hall from Ketchikan, summed up her feelings in one concise statement. "The problem is that it works. The candidates would not run smear campaigns if they didn't get results, and the media would not cover it if we were not interested."

Sophomore, Brandy Disbennett answered: "Honestly I am one that doesn't care about what you have done in your past if you are the one who is going to go in and get the job done. I care about your policies and what you think and what you feel. I don't care about anything else."

Colin Johnson, a junior from Minnesota, was sympathetic for the candidates. "Yeah, she's got family troubles, but I don't think that should hold any sway over

how her political life goes. She's just a person like everybody else, she's got problems in her family, and I don't think that we should hold that against her as far as her career is concerned."

Ben Browne, a Business major and Juneau resident since 1989 believes that the problem is too widespread. "That is what elections have become in this country: when it gets close, just focus on the negative, focus on the personal. When that happens is that it stops being about the issues and about their personal lives and that is not what we're voting for."

Another issue that the majority of the students agreed upon was the selection of Sarah Palin as the republican running mate.

Max Fleischfresser, another Banfield freshman, felt very strongly about the issue. "I don't know what McCain was thinking. This was one of the most rushed decisions that I have ever seen. Even the locals disagree with his choice. This is not about what state she was from, or how much her wardrobe cost. It is about if she can lead the country if something happens to McCain."

Disbennett, however, defended the choice, "In most respects, I don't think it was necessarily a bad choice. I think that because of the Alaska thing, she hasn't really been involved in Middle Eastern affairs or anything, so she will take a very objective standpoint. I think that from that point it will be good."

While most of the people interviewed look at Palin's inexperience in foreign affairs as a disadvantage, Disbennett sees it as keeping Palin objective.

Easily the most interesting of the interviews came from the students that were either undecided or were voting for a third party candidate.

When asked why he was voting for Bob Barr, the libertarian candidate, Kelly Hackman, another Banfield resident responded: "The reason that I am voting libertar-

ian is because they are consistent in their beliefs. A flat tax, personal liberty and less government regulation are all important beliefs in their party. McCain is going to be just as bad and wants to keep the war going, which costs us a lot of money even though he talks about cutbacks. Obama really just wants to spend all of my money too, and that's what it really comes down to for me. My personal liberty and my money, they are mine to do what I want with."

Shorey was one of the undecided voters. "I don't trust Obama, but I don't like McCain. What I do not want to do is throw away my vote, which is what voting for a write-in is. So for me, it will probably be the lesser of two evils. With McCain, even if I do not agree with his politics, at least he is taking a hard stance on them. I feel like Obama has been going back and forth."

Brown also specified his dislike of Obama. "More than that I like McCain, I really don't like Obama. When it comes down to politics you really have to just pick the one that you hate the least. What I do not like about Obama is that he wants to tell us how much money we can make in a year, and he talks about the redistribution of wealth. I am all for the free market, and Obama's socialist policies will not be good for it."

The results from the interviewees were unexpected. Juneau is typically known as a Blue city in a Red state. College campuses are also known to vote more heavily for democrats. The students at UAS fit into neither of those categories neatly.

We are a diverse student body with varying political beliefs. If there is one thing that these interviews have made clear, it is that when it comes down to the vote from UAS, it is anybody's game in November.

STUDENTS GET ACTIVE IN POLITICS

By Michael R.L. Kern, The UAF Sun Star

FAIRBANKS— It's the political season, and there are only a few weeks to go before a decision will be made and a new leader will ascend to the world stage as the figurehead of the executive branch of the United States of

experience should not be taken lightly. Students for Obama discussed their candidate's ideas to change the economy as his biggest strength. One student said that Obama doesn't believe in giving tax breaks to the wealthy, and that

"This contest has once again come down to two of the oldest games in town."

America

This contest has once again come down to two of the oldest games in town. The Republicans of the Grand Old Party came out strong with Sen. John McCain and Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin. The Democrats came to a consensus, choosing Barack Obama and Joseph Biden, as their candidates for the presidency.

Swept up in the political machine, two student groups, the Young Republicans and Students for Obama, have organized themselves on campus to support each candidate.

The Young Republicans bring to the table an enthusiasm for McCain and his running mate's varied experience, touting years of legislative experience brought by McCain and the important executive experience held by Palin.

Arthur Martin, president of the Young Republicans, explained, "Obama has been in the U.S. Senate for 143 days before deciding to run for president. ... McCain has been in Congress for 26 years and served in the military ... when it comes to experience, there is no comparison. Palin has been governor for 180 days, but she's also been a mayor."

Students for Obama hold in high regard Obama's ability to show efficacy. One student pointed out that Obama's much-derided community organizing

everyone else will see less taxes.

The Young Republicans felt that the feasibility of Obama's plans were frail at best, as employers who do make money over that magic number of \$250,000 would be put off at doing business in the U.S. and would rather be elsewhere, further depressing the economy.

As to the war, the Young Republicans were quick to bring up McCain's military experience in dealing with foreign powers that are currently engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan. They also thought he would deal with Iran's nuclear ambitions a bit better than Obama, citing the Illinois Senator's promise to sit down with the Iranians to talk things out as being limp-wristed.

On the other wrist, Obama's boosters felt it took a certain cool-headedness to not jump at the chance to go to war after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York City and touted his reluctance to attack Iraq.

When asked if they would have gone a different direction if an independent had become a major national candidate, more than half of the population of each gathering had strong feelings in that direction, and a good portion would have supported one if that person seemed to be a viable candidate.

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